

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 pushing a datum onto a stack by a first processing
3 thread; and
4 popping the datum off the stack by a second processing
5 thread.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the pushing comprises:
2 executing a push command on the first processing thread,
3 the push command having at least one argument,
4 determining a pointer to a current stack datum,
5 determining a location associated with an argument of the
6 push command,
7 storing the determined pointer at the determined
8 location,
9 producing a pointer associated with determined location
10 the pointer to the current stack datum.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein determining a location
2 comprises:
3 decoding the push command.

1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein determining a location
2 comprises:
3 storing an argument of the pop command in a location
4 associated with the argument of the push command.

1 5. The method of claim 2 wherein said push command is
2 at least one of a processor instruction, and an operating
3 system call.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein popping comprises:
 2 executing a pop command by the second processing thread,
 3 determining a pointer to a current stack datum,
 4 returning the determined pointer to the second processing
 5 thread,
 6 retrieving a pointer to a previous stack datum from a
 7 location associated with the pointer to the current stack
 8 datum, and
 9 assigning the retrieved pointer the pointer to the
 10 current stack datum.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the location
 2 associated with the pointer to the current stack datum is the
 3 location that has an address equal to the value of the pointer
 4 to the current stack datum.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the location
 2 associated with the pointer to the current stack datum is the
 3 location that has an address equal to the sum of an offset and
 4 the value of the pointer to the current stack datum.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the pop command is at
 2 least one of a processor instruction or an operating system
 3 call.

1 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 storing data in a memory buffer that is accessible using
 3 a buffer pointer having the datum that is pushed onto the
 4 stack.

1 11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 using the popped datum as a buffer pointer to access
 3 information stored in a memory buffer.

1 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 a third processing thread pushing a second datum onto the
 3 stack.

1 13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 a third processing thread popping a second datum of the
 3 stack.

1 14. A system comprising:
 2 a stack module that stores data by pushing it onto the
 3 stack and processing threads can retrieve information by
 4 popping the information off the stack,
 5 a first processing thread having a first command set,
 6 including at least one command for pushing data onto the
 7 stack, and
 8 a second processing thread having a second command set,
 9 including at least one command for popping the data off the
 10 stack.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second
 2 processing threads are executed on a single processing engine.

1 16. The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second
 2 processing threads are executed on separate processing
 3 engines.

1 17. The system of claim 16 wherein the separate
2 processing engines are implemented on the same integrated
3 circuit.

1 18. The system of claim 14 wherein the stack module and
2 the processing threads are on the same integrated circuit.

1 19. The system of claim 14 where the first and second
2 command sets are at least one of a processor instruction set
3 and an operating system instruction set.

1 20. The system of claim 14 further comprising a bus
2 interface for communicating between at least one of the
3 processing threads and the stack module.

1 21. A stack module comprising:
2 control logic that responds to commands from at least two
3 processing threads, the control logic storing datum on a stack
4 structure in response to a push command and retrieving datum
5 from the stack in response to a pop command.

1 22. The stack module of claim 21 further comprising a
2 stack pointer associated with the most recently stored datum
3 on the stack.

1 23. The stack module of claim 22 further comprising a
2 memory location associated with a first datum on the stack,
3 the second memory location including:

4 a pointer associated with a second datum which was stored
5 on the stack prior to said first datum.

1 24. The stack module of claim 22 further comprising a
2 second stack pointer associated with the most recently stored
3 datum on a second stack.

1 25. The stack module of claim 22 wherein the stack
2 pointer is a register on a processor.

1 26. The stack module of claim 23 wherein said memory
2 location includes SRAM memory.

1 27. The stack module of claim 21 wherein the commands
2 are processor instructions.

1 28. The stack module of claim 21 wherein the commands
2 are operating system instructions.

1 29. An article comprising a computer-readable medium
2 which stores computer logic, the computer logic comprising:
3 a stack module configured to store data from a first
4 processing thread by pushing the data onto a stack and to
5 retrieve the data for a second processing thread by popping
6 the data off the stack, the stack module being responsive to a
7 first processing thread command to store data on the stack and
8 a second processing thread command to retrieve data from the
9 stack.

1 30. An article comprising a computer-readable medium
2 which stores computer-executable instructions, the
3 instructions causing a processor to:
4 store data from a first processing thread by executing an
5 instruction to push the data onto the stack; and

6 retrieve the data for a second processing thread by
7 executing an instruction to pop the data from the stack for
8 use by the second thread.